

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00149 121156Z

43

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MC-02 EB-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1291

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USDOC

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DEPT FOR NEA/ARP LUMSDEN; BEIRUT FOR RCAA

EO 11652: NA (DECON AUG 10, 1974)

TAGS: ETRD, TC, US

SUBJ: EXPORT LICENSE FOR SALE OF HELICOPTERS TO DUBAI

1. BELL HELICOPTER REPS HORSELY AND MORGAN CALLED FEB 7 TO BRIEF EMB OFFICERS ON STATUS OF SALES EFFORTS WITHIN UAE. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION, THEY MENTIONED PROBLEM COMPANY IS HAVING IN OBTAINING EXPORT LICENSE FROM DEPT FOR ONE (1) JET RANGER AIRCRAFT AND TWO (2) MODEL 205 HELICOPTERS SOLD TO DUBAI POLICE FORCE IN SEPT 73. TOTAL AMOUNT OF SALE DOLS 2.5 MIL. DELIVERY OF FIRST AIRCRAFT, THE JET RANGER, SCHEDULED FOR FEB 74. JET RANGER IS FOR COMMAND USE OF SHAIKH MUHAMMAD BIN RASHID, UAE MINDEF AND COMMANDER OF DUBAI SECURITY FORCES. REP INFORMED EMB THAT SHAIKH MUHAMMAD EXPECTING DELIVERY OF JET RANGER SOON, AS PROMISED, AND THEY INFORMED BY HIS DEPUTY THAT FURTHER ORDERS FOR BELL EQUIPMENT WILL DEPEND VERY MUCH ON PERFORMANCE BY COMPANY OF PRESENT CONTRACT.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, REPS ADVISED THAT CONTRACT FOR FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL 205'S WORTH DOLS 3.5 MIL ARE AWAITING SIGNATURE OF SHAIKH MUHAMMAD. HE HAS INDICATED TO SUBORDINATES THAT HE WILL

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00149 121156Z

NOT APPROVE ORDER UNTIL JET RANGER MENTIONED PARA 1 ABOVE RECEIVED.

3. ACCORDING REPS, BELL APPLIED FOR EXPORT LICENSE FROM OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL IN NOV 73. WHEN COMPANY FOLLOWED UP WITH MC RECENTLY, IT HAD IMPRESSION THAT THERE NO SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEM INVOLVED, BUT DELAY DUE STRICTLY TO BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, PERHAPS INVOLVING INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATION WITHIN USG. REPS ASSURED EMB THAT NEITHER JET RANGER NOR 205S NOW ON ORDER WILL BE EQUIPPED FOR HANDLING ANY WEAPONS SYSTEMS, SO THIS SHOULD NOT BE PROBLEM FOR USG. DUBAI POLICE INTEND TO USE AIRCRAFT AS PART OF THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION INTO ORGANIZATION CAPABLE OF PERFORMING MORE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF POLICE WORK, SUCH AS AIR RESCUE SERVICES, SURVEILLANCE OF COAST AND INTERIOR AREAS, AND COORDINATION WITH UNION DEFENSE FORCE (UDF) IN ANTI-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. BOTH AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS AND CHARGE REPEATEDLY HAVE URGED UAEG AND CONSTITUENT EMIRATE GOVTS TO CONCENTRATE THEIR DEFENSE EFFORTS ON INTERNAL SECURITY. GREATER MOBILITY FOR POLICE IS ESSENTIAL PART OF IMPROVEMENTTHIS CAPABILITY. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT THEREFORE, EXPEDITING ISSUANCE OF EXPORT LICENSE TO ENABLE JET RANGER AND 2 MODEL 205S TO BE SHIPPED DUBAI SOONEST. MUST EMPHASIZE THAT ANY RELUCTANCE ON OUR PART TO APPROVE PRESENT HELICOPTER ORDER WILL LIKELY MEAN THAT ALL FUTURE ORDERS FOR UDF AND DUBAI WILL BE DIRECTED TOWARD FOREIGN COMPETITORS.
GRIFFIN

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